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# PRESS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **SCAG, SANDAG LEADERS DISCUSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE**

**SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO** - Leaders representing Southern California's regional planning agencies met recently to coordinate planning efforts for common issues and priorities. Elected officials and senior staff from the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) – representing seven Southern California counties – agreed to form a coalition to advocate on key transportation infrastructure priorities to Congress.

“One of our top challenges is to find innovative strategies to overcome federal and state funding shortages for key investments to our communities,” stated SCAG President and Port Hueneme Councilmember Toni Young. “SANDAG and SCAG are part of a growing coalition that will jointly advocate for transportation infrastructure funding and begin exploring public-private partnerships and other approaches.”

In addition to Young, SCAG Regional Councilmembers participating in the meeting included Orange County Supervisor Chris Norby, Riverside County Supervisor Jeff Stone, Lake Forrest Councilmember Richard Dixon, Huntington Beach Councilmember Debbie Cook, Lake Elsinore Councilmember Thomas Buckley, as well as SCAG Executive Director Mark Pisano.

SANDAG representatives included Chairman and Mayor of Poway Mickey Cafagna, Second Vice-Chairman and Santee Councilmember Jack Dale, Escondido Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler, Solana Beach Councilmember Joe Kellejian and Executive Director Gary Gallegos.

(more)

“We are one ‘mega region’ with similar transportation, economic and environmental challenges,” noted SANDAG’s Cafagna. “The more we can develop a common agenda and work together at the regional level will benefit the folks who live and work throughout Southern California.

In addition to joint transportation advocacy, summit participants discussed other issues of common interest, including the development of MAGLEV (Magnetic Levitation rail), implementation of a new ‘511’ Commuter Telephone Assistance Service, and simplification of the California Environmental Quality Act.

SCAG held a similar summit with the leaders from Kern Council of Governments in August. The leaders from the two regions agreed to join together to pursue funding for critical Southern California transportation priorities.

The leadership from SCAG and SANDAG agreed to continue meeting on a regular basis to exchange information, coordinate planning for programs and projects, generate ideas about topics of mutual interest and identify potential funding sources. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 9, 2006.

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